

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADDICTIVE & MENTAL DISORDERS DIVISION**



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Dear Colleagues:

I'm sure you all know by now that the House has decided to split the traditional House Bill 2 into several bills, to deal with the budget. The new bill for DPHHS is HB808.

Listed in the bill are the total amounts budgeted for each division in our Department. What isn't so easy to see is how this bill is different from what came out of the subcommittee. As promised, this is your update about where AMDD stands in the budget process.

These initiatives, previously funded either in the Executive (Governor's) budget or by the Health and Human Services Subcommittee, are now removed from the budget as a result of House action:

- Secure Treatment and Examination Program (STEP)
- 72 Hour Presumptive Eligibility
- Meth/CD expansion
- Behavioral Health Program Facilitator (joint Corrections/HHS position – funding in Corrections budget)
- Behavioral Health Inpatient Facilities

Still funded are these proposals that were not in the Executive budget, but were added by the subcommittee:

- Direct care worker wage increases
- Mental health drop-in centers
- Suicide prevention
- Community services for mentally ill offenders
- Expansion of the Mental Health Services Plan
- Provider rate increases

If you believe the Executive's budget should be funded, now is the time to contact your legislators and members of the House Appropriations Committee. Today's legislative schedule does not show that HB808 has been scheduled – but we think it could be heard as early as March 5, when legislators return from the transmittal break.

Again, thank you for your heartfelt support of these proposals. If you have questions, give me a call at 444-3969 or e-mail me at jdecunzo@mt.gov.

Joyce DeCunzo
Administrator